

Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 241710Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1694

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

ZEN /AMEMBASSY ATHENS 1648

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0669

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: "MAKEDONIA" EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ANDREAS

PAPANDREOU, OCTOBER 23, 1973

1. "MAKEDONIA" OF OCTOBER 24 FRONTPAGES TEXT OF EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW PREVIOUS DAY WITH ANDREAS PAPANDREOU BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT. ACCORDING TO HEADLINES, PAPANDREOU MAINTAINED THAT "PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS PERPETUATES REGIME AND ABSTENTION WILL EXPEDITE RESTORATION OF NORMALITY".

2. IN BRIEF INTRODUCTION ON PAPANDREOU'S PAST ROLE AS CU LEADER AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN PAK, PAPER REPORTS THAT HIS PRESENT "INFLUENCE AMONG LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF CENTRAL UNION (CU) IS SIGNIFICANT". REPORT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS PAPANDREOU'S REFUSAL TO COMMENT ON PRESENT CU LEADERSHIP AND HIS ROLE IN PARTY AND INTERPRETS THIS POSITION AS MEANING THAT HE CONSIDERS PAK TO REPRESENT CENTRAL UNION AND HOPES TO "CONTEST LEADERSHIP OF PARTY". FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY QUESTIONS AND VERBATIM REPLIES BY PAPANDREOU:

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE ON ELECTIONS?

ANSWER: OUR ATTITUDE IS CLEAR AND FINAL. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS IS TANTAMOUNT TO COLLABORATION, SLAVERY, AND TREASON. NEO-COLONIAL CONSTITUTION OF 1968 AND 1973

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CONSTITUTES LEGAL MANTLE FOR MILITARY RULE AND OCCUPATION.

FOR INTELLIGENT PEOPLE, THERE IS NO MARGIN FOR EVOLUTION. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS MEANS LEGALIZATION OF REGIME. FOR FOREIGNERS, THIS WILL SIGNIFY THAT GREECE HAS BECOME DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. DOMESTICALLY, IF MAJORITY OF OLD POLITICAL PARTIES DO NOT ABSTAIN, IT WILL MEAN LEGALIZATION AND PERPETUATION OF REGIME AND WILL UNDERMINE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS NAIVE OR CONNIVING TO ADVOCATE THAT WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPENINGS OFFERED BY JUNTA, BECAUSE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION STRENGTHENS AND BACKS DICTATORSHIP AND OCCUPATION WITHOUT OFFERING POSSIBILITY OF ALTERING EVENTS

QUESTION: BASED ON YOUR PAST INDEPENDENCE, CAN IT BE ASSUMED THAT YOU WILL NOT JOIN IN COMMON POLICY OF OTHER PARTIES OR AT LEAST OF CENTRAL UNION?

ANSWER: ATTITUDE OF PAK , MY ATTITUDE, IS FORMED BY SINGLE CRITERION, THAT IS ADVANCEMENT OF PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR UNCONDITIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. WHETHER OUR POSITION COINCIDES OR NOT WITH THAT OF PARTY ORGANIZATIONS DEPENDS ON THEM NOT US.

QUESTION: SINCE DEATH OF FORMER CU LEADER, GEORGE PAPANDREOU, THERE IS NO OFFICIAL LEADER AND MAVROS APPEARS AS UNOFFICIAL HEAD. IN VIEW OF YOUR ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN CENTRAL UNION, WOULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS PARTY?

ANSWER: MY POSITION IS ALREADY KNOWN. I DO NOT INTEND TO COMMIT ANYONE, PEOPLE WILL DECIDE.

QUESTION: HOW CAN YOU REALIZE AIMS OF YOUR MOVEMENT SUCH AS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, REAL DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIALIZATION IF OTHER URGENT PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY ARE NOT SOLVED FIRST?

ANSWER: THIS IS MISUNDERSTANDING BECAUSE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY CONSTITUTE HISTORICAL CONDITIONS FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY. IF NOT NOW APPARENT, IT WILL SOON BE CLEAR THAT SELLING OUT COUNTRY TO FOREIGN MONOPOLIES IS ALEADING TO STAGNATION AND DECLINE. NEITHER OPPORTUNISTS OR MAGICIANS CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS IF GREECE DOES NOT BELONG TO GREECE.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU VIEW FUTURE COURSE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IF PEOPLE ARE UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH DECISION TO ABSTAIN FROM ELECTIONS?

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ANSWER: ABSTENTION BY ALL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FROM ELECTIONS WOULD LEAD FOREIGN ENSLAVED REGIME TO IMPASSE. AFTER SEVEN YEARS, COUNTRY WILL STILL BE IN ISOLATION AS IT HAS BEEN TO DATE. THIS MEANS IT WILL BE VERY FRAGILE. THIS HELPS, STRENGTHENS, AND SHORTENS LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF OUR PEOPLE.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON CHARGES THAT YOU ARE UNREALISTIC?

ANSWER: THIS AGAIN IS MISUNDERSTANDING. AN UNREALISTIC PERSON

CANNOT PROPERLY EVALUATE HISTORIC POSSIBILITIES. I BELIEVE THAT
THOSE WHO THOUGHT SOLUTION WOULD COME FROM CONQUERORS, THAT IS
FROM WASHINGTON, WHERE UNREALISTIC. AS EVENTS WILL SHOW,
UNREALISTIC COLLABORATORS, SLAVES, AND TRAITORS WILL BE THOSE
WHO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS "IN ORDER TO PROCEED TO DEMOCRACY".
DEMOCRACY, PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY, AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
ARE NOT GIVEN, THEY ARE WON THROUGH STRUGGLE. THIS, CERTAINLY,
IS NOT UNREALISTIC POSITION.
JACKSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THESSA00669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731013/aaaaajnx.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <07-Sep-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "MAKEDONIA" EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, OCTOBER 23, 1973
TAGS: PINT, GR, CU, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005